

## ABSTRACT

Methods, compositions and articles of manufacture for assaying a sample for a  
5 target polynucleotide are provided. A sample suspected of containing the target  
polynucleotide is contacted with a polycationic multichromophore and a sensor PNA  
complementary to the target polynucleotide. The sensor PNA comprises a signaling  
chromophore to absorb energy from the excited multichromophore and emit light in the  
presence of the target polynucleotide. The methods can be used in multiplex form. Kits  
10 comprising reagents for performing such methods are also provided.